

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Brookfield Public Schools
REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Chairman Bob Belden called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT

Bob Belden, Amy Foster, Rosa Fernandes, Debbie Brooks, Dr. Mike Murphy, Hala Hourani, Superintendent Dr. John Barile, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon, Director of Business Operations Kasey Diotte, Director of Special Education Bill Roland, WMS Principal Deane Renda, and members of the staff & public.

Joy Greenstein arrived at 8:35pm

FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBERS

The Superintendent congratulated the outgoing Board members and thanked them for their service to the Board of Education, and presented them with a gift.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT- WHISCONIER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Colby Fitzgerald and Jackie Whiting and WMS 8th grade students presented building student agency for learning

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- AVA CANTONE

Ava Cantone gave an update on the happenings at BHS

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Marni McNiff wrote regarding a student's PPT.

Greg Prendi wrote regarding a grievance.

Katherine Boniello wrote a letter of appreciation.

Omar Nassar, Mariam Azeez, Hossam, Ramzy, Lena Bouri and Fatima Belguich wrote regarding the Eid holidays.

Michelle French wrote regarding special education staffing.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes listed below as recommended:

Regular Meeting- 10/18/2023

Special Meeting- 10/30/2023

B. Belden, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Dr. Barile acknowledged Dr. Mike Perrone, former Brookfield Superintendent, who passed away. Mr. Roland gave a brief update on the Special Education Strategic Plan. The Superintendent gave a CIAC athletic update saying that Brookfield High School is now offering a ski club for students and that Director of Technology Eric Conklin is the club advisor. Dr. Barile shared updates on CLES which included the playscape installation and paving as well as the budget process. The Board of Education “hand off” meeting will be on November 20th, and the BEF Gala is scheduled for December 1st. The Superintendent said the Brookfield Broadcast Winter Edition should be out the first week in December. Dr. Barile shared the winners of the CABE Communications Awards and gave a brief update on the discussion of new website platforms.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance- 10/16/2023- Mrs. Fernandes said the subcommittee spent most of their meeting time discussing the September financials.

Security Task Force- 10/26/2023- Mr. Belden said the task force discussed Candlewood Lake Elementary School security staffing and Iroquios Gas-WMS plans.

Facilities- 11/1/2023- Mr. Belden said the subcommittee received updates regarding the BHS Media Center A/C and the guidance wing roof. They discussed capital projects, custodial staffing, School Dude reports, and additional costs associated with the WMS wall project and electrical upgrade.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Foster moved, seconded, and the Board voted 6-0 to approve the items on the consent agenda as recommended.

B. Belden, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS

ML (MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS) BY GRADE REPORT

The Board received a report on ML’s (Multilingual Learners) as presented by Katherine Abrego.

CLASS SIZE REPORT

The Board received the Class Size report as presented by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon.

HOME SCHOOL REPORT

The Board received a report on home schooling as presented by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Anna Mahon.

OLD BUSINESS

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REVIEW-FOLLOW UP REPORT FROM CREC

The Board received a follow up report, presented by Dr. Dana Corriveau from the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) regarding the Special Education Review.

PRIORITIZED 2024-2025 1-YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS APPROVAL

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve the 2024-2025 1-year Prioritized Capital Projects List as recommended by the Finance subcommittee.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

APPROVAL OF NEW POLICY #5112, AGES OF ATTENDANCE

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to approve new Policy #5112, Ages of Attendance, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communication subcommittee. First reading was on October 18, 2023.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

APPROVAL OF REGULATION #6563, SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve Regulation#6563, School Library Media, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on October 18, 2023.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion to include the edits that the Board discussed, and any typo edits that were identified. B.

Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

APPROVAL OF POLICY #6162.51, SURVEY OF STUDENTS

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, to approve Policy #6162.51, Survey of Students, for a final reading as recommended by the Policy/Communications subcommittee. First reading was on October 18, 2023.

After discussion, B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to table this policy for at least 60 days, so that the new Board has a chance to get established.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

A Foster moved, R. Fernandes to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar as recommended by the District Calendar committee and Superintendent Dr. John Barile.

After discussion, R. Fernandes moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 3-4 to amend the proposed 2024-2025 school calendar to remove October 3, 2024, Rosh Hashanah as a day off and instead, make it a school day.

R. Fernandes, A. Foster and D. Brooks voted aye.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted no

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the motion that, in addition, the Board give guidance and direction to urge the Superintendent to institute policies for no testing and no homework on all religious holidays.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to amend the original amendment to add that the calendar would include an attachment for the significant religious observances for the major faiths in the United States as an addendum to the calendar, and urge the superintendent and leadership team to have all of those holidays not have tests or homework on religious holidays on the day of or the day after.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

The Board unanimously approved the amended motion, which is to approve the calendar with the amendment, the attachment with the religious holidays, and the guidance to the Superintendent on homework and testing.

APPROVAL OF PAYRATE GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS

A. Foster moved, R. Fernandes seconded, and after a brief overview from Mrs. Diotte, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Pay Rate Guidelines for Special Programs as recommended by the Finance subcommittee, effective January 1, 2024.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3 MAIN POINTS

1. CREC Follow Up Report
2. ML, Class Size and Home School Updates
3. 2024-2025 School Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mrs. Foster listed upcoming events.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED/POSSIBLE MOTION

B. Belden moved, A. Foster seconded, and the Board voted 7-0 to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing/approving the Superintendent's goals at 9:55pm.

B. Belden, J. Greenstein, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, D. Brooks, M. Murphy and H. Hourani voted aye.

Chairman Belden called the meeting to order at 10:02 pm.

PRESENT: B. Belden, D. Brooks, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani and M. Murphy

The Board entered into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's goals.

Superintendent Dr. John Barile was invited in at 10:02 pm

Superintendent Dr. John Barile, B. Belden, D. Brooks, A. Foster, R. Fernandes, J. Greenstein, H. Hourani and M. Murphy exited executive session at 10:33 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, Chairman Belden adjourned the meeting at 10:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Gramling, Board Clerk

Amy Foster, Secretary
Brookfield Board of Education